

LESSONS FROM YALU.

MAHAN DRAWS CONCLUSIONS FROM FIGHT.

Offense Is Better than Defense and Rapidity of Fire Is Most Important—Battle-Ships Better Than Cruisers—Light Tonnage a Factor.



THE CURRENT Century devotes considerable attention to the battle of the Yalu. This engagement is important not only for its decisive bearing upon the contest between China and Japan, but because it was the first one

fought between modern ironclads with modern arms. The Century prints the first authoritative account of the battle that has yet been published, written by Philo N. McGiffin, the brave American officer who commanded the Chinese battle-ship Chen Yuen. This is illustrated with photographs taken during the actual engagement, as well as by those showing the damage done to the vessels. A second paper, by Capt. A. T. Mahan, the greatest authority on naval tactics, discusses the "Lessons from the Yalu Fight." The following is an extract from his article:

It appears from Commander McGiffin's narrative that both Chinese and Japanese were led, by design or accident, to accumulate projectiles and ammunition on deck in advance of immediate demands—a practice greatly deprecated. But is the deprecation wholly sound? Offense is better than defense. Rapid fire with some risk is better than slower fire with no risk—risk, that is, from this particular source—because the slower fire yields to the enemy an advantage greater than the risk avoided. On board a foreign battle-ship, not long ago, the Captain said to me that in providing for action they accumulated a certain number of rounds—ten, I think—near each rapid-fire gun. "Don't you consider that a great risk?" I asked. "Undoubtedly," he replied; "but not so great a risk as that the enemy should fire faster than we."

I think he was right. Collingwood used to tell his crew that if they could fire three well-aimed broadsides in as many minutes, no enemy could resist them. Farragut noted with emphatic commendation, in 1839, when the French attacked the castle of San Juan de Ulu at Vera Cruz, that they habitually kept a great number of shot accumulated in racks on deck—a practice many naval officers still remember. The introduction of shells—explosive projectiles—gave pause to this habit, for direful experiences had taught that a shot, solid or hollow, striking one would explode many near by. Nevertheless, the difficulty of insuring rapid supply at any time, even the quietest, and the dreadful liability to severance of the chain of supply by the casualties of battle, suggest the imperative necessity of an accumulation. This should be so planned and so proportioned to the rate of fire possible to the gun as to insure the minimum of risk that must be taken if the full efficiency of the battery is to be maintained. Especially is this necessary for the beginning of an action—usually, at least as regards the single ship, the most pregnant of the final result. As regards systems, the result of this episode is a drawn battle, which may be summed up broadly as the successful resistance of two ships, armored, with a joint displacement of 15,000 tons, to five ships, partly protected, of 19,000 tons. This, as far as it goes, favors the view that a given amount of tonnage in one or in a few big ships possesses a decided advantage over the same, or even a greater amount, divided among several. This view is also in strict accord with the general teachings of warfare, that force concentrated under one command is more efficient than that disseminated among several. This conclusion must not, of course, be pressed to absurdity, but tempered, as all practical conclusions are, by moderation and discretion. A man may consider one 10,000-ton ship better than two of 6,000 without wanting one of 20,000 tons at all, for sufficient reasons. Our forerunners found a 74-gun ship absolutely superior to two frigates—for the latter to attack was considered folly—yet the 74 was their norm for the battle-ship, and only exceptionally was exceeded in size.

On the other hand, this episode was a drawn fight, because 45 (more or less) quick-firing guns got the better of eight 12-inch guns unsupported by any quick-firing guns at all. They did so, I apprehend, because they destroyed the personnel of the ship, either directly or by shattering its power of efficient offense. Men, however brave, cannot stand up against fire of a certain intensity; and when such a condition is reached and sustained, they are as good as dead for the time being.

A copperhead snake four feet long was killed in Brooklyn the other day.

DIG FISH, SMALL ROD.

Extraordinary Catch Made by a Sportive Resident of Santa Cruz.

Al Cumming had an encounter with a huge shark at Santa Cruz Sunday, says the San Francisco Examiner. Cumming had engaged a boat and was out for salmon. Suddenly there was a jerk at his line that almost capsized the boat. The fish came to the surface and his fins showed that he was a big shark. Cumming toyed with him for a while, and as the shark felt the sharp prong of the hooks forced into his mouth he made a plunge, going down fully one hundred feet, and reeling out about five hundred feet of line. Cumming had only one hundred feet more on the reel, and if the shark had accomplished that distance he would have escaped. But he was exhausted and came to the surface again. Then, with the skill of an experienced angler, Cumming played the line carefully, and, after great effort, got the shark alongside of his boat. Both the shark and his captor were winded. The boatman killed the shark with one blow of his boat-hook. Mr. Cumming caught the shark with a twelve-ounce salmon rod and a linen salmon line. The fish was more than five feet in length and weighed fully one hundred and fifty pounds. It is the largest shark ever landed there with a hook and line, and its capture was due to the perfect knowledge of fishing that Mr. Cumming possesses. The contest lasted just one hour, and exciting as it was for Mr. Cumming, it was also as much so for the onlookers. Fully twenty boats were in the vicinity.

ROOSEVELT REALLY FAMOUS.

Cocktail Named After the Ruler of New York. So He Must Be a Great Man.

The newest thing in alcoholic beverages has been named the "Roosevelt cocktail," says the New York Sun. It is so new, in fact, that the young caliph of the reform police board, who is said to pride himself on being up to date, has probably not yet tried the concoction that has been dedicated to him. The Roosevelt cocktail can hardly be called a mixed drink; it is rather of the genus shandy gaff. It consists of half a glass of lager beer, into which is put an equal quantity of plain soda. This makes a much more cooling and thirst-quenching morning draught than beer alone, and persons who claim to know about such matters say that it is an excellent antidote for the mutinial ailment known as "head." The Roosevelt cocktail it rapidly growing in popularity.

Revised Psalm of Life.

At 20, when a man is young, he thinks he knows it all; he likes to wag his active tongue and exercise his gall; he struts around in noble rage; the world is all his own; he laughs to scorn the world of age and lists to self alone. He wears a window in his eye to see his whiskers grow; he thinks the ladies pine and die because they love him so. At 40, as you may suppose, he's knuckled down to biz; 'tis not till 60 that he knows how big a chump he is.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

Salt water is slightly heavier than fresh water.

In China, if a man loses his temper in public he is liable to five days' imprisonment.

In Peru and Bolivia wheat is cultivated 11,000 feet above the sea; in the Alps, 3,600 feet.

There is a one-armed man in Georgia who can plow, jerk and goad a mule, swear and smoke a pipe all at once.

Immigration to this country for the fiscal year, ending with June, was only 276,136, or less by 35,476 than last year. London has decided to convert into parks and playgrounds for children the 173 disused graveyards in that city.

The estimated age of the dragon tree of Oratava (not authentic, like the recorded age of the Soma tree) is 5,000 years.

A hotel is to be built on High Knob, a mountain in Virginia. From its balconies guests will be able to see into five states.

Ohio has the greatest number of pensioners—99,837; New York is second, with 89,642, and Pennsylvania third, with 89,387.

The amount paid in the form of interest to shareholders in public companies in England annually is something like \$1,100,000,000.

In the famous cellars of the Hotel de Ville, at Bremen, there were a dozen cases of holy wine, which have been preserved for 250 years.

Indiana's corn crop for this year is estimated at 150,000,000 bushels, which is about 15,000,000 bushels greater than the highest previous year.

For the hide of a full-grown giraffe, which is greatly sought after in Africa for whip and sandal making, the native hunter gets from \$15 to \$25.

An Armenian recently died at Lowell, Mass., and his friends, having no photograph, stood him up in a corner and had his picture taken in that way.

The longest game of chess on record took between five and six years to finish. One player was in England and one in Australia, and the game was played by mail.

SUNLIGHT TO ORDER.

A Question of Vibrations Introduced by Prof. Tesla.

Tesla had two big undertakings on hand when his laboratory caught fire and was destroyed in New York. The more important of these, from his point of view, was the production of light by the vibration of the atmosphere. According to the inventor, the light of the sun is the result of vibrations in 94,000,000 miles of ether, which separates us from the center of the solar system of which we are a part. Tesla's idea is to produce here on earth vibrations similar to those which cause sunlight, and thus give us a light as intense as that of the sun, with no danger of obstruction from the clouds. The inventor had already done something toward accomplishing this end when the fire occurred. It is understood that he has again taken the subject up in a way. To illustrate his principle it is only necessary to take a long bar of glass and note the brilliancy of the light it produces through vibration alone. It is a prismatic experiment, in general terms, applied to electricity. Tesla can compute vibrations as readily as most people count the wealth they would like to have. He can tell you the number of vibrations produced by a fly in action and draw interesting comparisons therefrom. For example, this young man from Smiljan will tell you that a certain kind of fly peculiar to the swamps of Central American moves his wings 25,000 times to the second. You may doubt the accuracy of this statement in your own mind, but if you hunger for details Tesla will sit down and convince you with figures adduced from a scientific contemplation of the problem.

"All I have to do," he said recently, "is to duplicate the number of vibrations required to light up the sun, and the practicability of my theory will have been demonstrated. It is difficult for me to give you an idea that you will readily grasp about this question of vibration. In ordinary life our minds do not deal with the figures that come up in such investigations. I have come to the conclusion that the sunlight is produced by five hundred trillion vibrations of the atmosphere per second. In order to manufacture the same kind of light it will be necessary to produce an equal number of vibrations by machinery. I have succeeded up to a certain point, but am still at work on the task."

Cycling 524 Miles a Day.

It seems almost incredible that a man should be able to cover a distance of 524 miles in twenty-four consecutive hours, furnishing all the motor power himself, and yet that was what the French bicyclist, Riviere, did at Bordeaux Tuesday. Applied in a straight line that day's motion would have carried him from Chicago to the vicinity of Cleveland. Of course, he made his record on a cement track, but it isn't every one of us that can do his twenty-two miles on a track in an hour, not to mention keeping it up for twenty-four. The French, by the way, while they don't keep with us in short-distance riding, seem to have everything their own way in the long ones, the American twenty-four-hour record being some 100 miles lower than theirs.

Longevity of Norwegians.

Norway is a small country, and the sayings and doings of its people do not get into newspaper type very often, but the Norwegians, nevertheless, have a claim upon celebrity due to the fact that the average length of life is greater there than in any other country in Europe. Recent statistics show that for males the average is 48 years and three months, and for females it is 51 years and three months. It is a valuable commentary on this that the mortality in Norway is 17 per cent less than in the center or west of Europe, this being due to the fact that a far smaller number of infants die there than in any other country.

Gauging Beer Capacity.

In southern Germany, where incredible quantities of beer are drunk daily and where the steady customers sit for hours at table, drinking glass after glass, mug after mug, filled by buxom maidens, some genius has introduced the "beerometer," attached to the bottom of a drinking vessel—a numbered dial with one hand. With each glassful or mugful which the drinker receives the hand is advanced one number. As the hand cannot be moved backward the "beerometer" exercises perfect control—to the sloop-keeper's satisfaction at least.

Cause of New York's Recent Horror.

While clearing away the debris of the Ireland building in New York city, which collapsed last week, killing fifteen men, an old-fashioned well was found under the foundation of the central pillar of the structure. This was what caused the fall of the building.

Dream Caused His Death.

Perry Laidley, a Charleston, W. Va., druggist, dreamed of burglars. This so impressed him that he got out a revolver and began cleaning it. It was discharged and Laidley was killed.

MORGAN & HAMILTON,

Contractors, Builders,

Cabinet Makers

AND UNDERTAKERS.

FARMINGTON,

NEW MEXICO.

The Smelter City Brewing Association.

Manufacturers of

Pure, Wholesome, Home Brewed Beer, and the only Pure Ice in the market.

Durango,

Colorado.

BEAUTIFUL HOMES

To all wishing to buy GRAND MESA LANDS, under ditch, with ample stock therein for irrigation, just north of Farmington, N. M., I will sell any size block, from one to eighty acres, cheap, on easy terms.

Very Choice Lots for Sale

just north of the public school building, to sell, a 40-acre tract, two miles from town, and an 80-acre tract with a 2-room house, cellar and small orchard, also a 10-acre tract of good land, well situated on the county road.

Any of these pieces of property is close enough to the public school for children to attend.

For further information apply to owner,

HUGH GRIFFIN

.... Or

V. R. N. Greaves, Agent
Farmington, N. M.

